

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for operating a subscriber unit to regulate transmission power comprising:

transmitting a periodic signal at an initial predetermined power level;

repeatedly transmitting the periodic signal, each transmission occurring at successively higher power levels;

receiving a confirmation signal at a specific power level which is based, in part, upon said periodic signal;

terminating transmission of the periodic signal and maintaining a power level present at a time that the confirmation signal is received at said subscriber unit; and

transmitting an access signal at the maintained power level, wherein the access signal includes an access code and the periodic signal includes a short code which is shorter than the access code.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said initial predetermined power level is lower than a power level required for detection by another communicating station.

Claims 3 and 4 (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1 wherein said short code has a period of one symbol.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said periodic signal comprises a short code, and~~ said subscriber unit periodically modifies the short code.

7. (Currently amended) A method for operating a subscriber unit for regulating transmission power comprising:

transmitting a periodic signal at an initial predetermined power level;

repeatedly retransmitting said periodic signal, each retransmission occurring at successively high power levels;

maintaining a power level present upon receipt of a confirmation signal; and

transmitting an access signal at the maintained power level, the access signal including an access code, wherein the periodic signal is a short code which is shorter than the access code

~~employing said maintained power level upon initiation of a subsequent operation.~~

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said initial predetermined power level is lower than a power level required for detection by another communicating station.

Claims 9 and 10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 ~~10~~ wherein said short code is an integer multiple of said access code.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 ~~11~~ wherein said short code is modified periodically.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 ~~10~~ wherein said short code has a period of one symbol.